



## STEP 2

### MAINTENANCE

# Planting Bed Edges

Keeping tidy edges around planting beds and stopping grass from creeping in is an easy way to make a yard look well-maintained.

Be sure to include sides of planting beds running along shared property lines; you do not want your neighbours struggling to keep their landscapes separate from yours.

You can manually cut in an edge using a spade or half moon edger. Then you pull back the soil in the garden bed, creating a small trench a few inches below grade. There are motorized edgers as well for larger properties. This will be a once or twice per season action.



## Edging Types:



**Strip Edging**

- Black plastic edging creates a highly visible border in the landscape.
- There are several brands of flexible recycled plastic boards that have a wood texture, allowing for more subtle blending into the landscape than the black plastic edging.
- Aluminum edging is also available and has the thinnest visible profile of the strip edging.



**Prefabricated Landscape Borders**

There are a variety of larger forms made from plastics or rubber. Keep an eye out for how they are anchored into the ground. The design of some stakes do not create a firm grip in the ground or do not go deep enough to prevent upheaval with the freeze and thaw.



**Paver Edging**

Using paving stones flush with the ground to border your garden beds creates a formal edge. This provides an easy edge for mowing any lawn area that you have as you can run the wheels along it.



**Concrete**

Poured in place concrete edging is a bold edging and should be matched to scale of planting beds. It does not allow for easy changes or planting bed expansion over time.



**Stone**

Large stones can be used to create a more natural feeling border. Keep in mind if you have lawn abutting to this uneven type of edge, you will likely be whipper-snipping grass. You could add a small buffer between any lawn and stones with compacted limestone fines (without a type of strip edging between this and lawn though, grass will eventually encroach into the fines) or have a buffer of low ground cover plants between lawn and the stones. a